

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:)

Jeffrey K. Harman, et al.)

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned)

Filed: March 15, 2004)

Parent Serial No. 10/183,741)

Parent Filed: June 26, 2002)

For: MINING SYSTEM)

Examiner: John J. Kreck

Group Art Unit: 3673

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Signature

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the enclosed Continuation Application on the merits and in
response to the Office Action of August 27, 2003, Applicant submits the following remarks.